



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

General Department of ASEAN

PRESS RELEASE

**Outcomes of the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) 10+1 Sessions
with the Dialogue Partners**

On 26 July 2024, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister **SOK Chenda Sophea**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, attended the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) 10+1 Sessions with Dialogue Partners of ASEAN, namely Australia, Canada, China, the European Union, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom (UK).

During the Meetings, His Excellency **SOK Chenda Sophea** emphasised the following key points:

- On economic cooperation, the **Deputy Prime Minister** underscored that promoting economic ties and fostering trade and investments in and between the regions remain a key pillar in our relations with external partners. Thus, he encouraged the full and effective utilization of the existing Free Trade Agreements (FTA) that ASEAN has with some Dialogue Partners and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) to further deepen regional integration and bring greater benefits for our peoples. He also underlined the need for ASEAN to work with other Dialogue Partners to create more FTAs and to improve market access, harmonize regulatory frameworks, and enhance business-to-business linkages.



- To ensure rapid and durable growth, **the Deputy Prime Minister** urged ASEAN and Dialogue Partners to tap into the great potentials of emerging industries such as digital economy, green transition, resilient supply chains, and sustainable tourism. Among some of the most important priorities across the three community pillars, he placed a heavy emphasis on the Digital Economy Framework Agreement, the first region-wide digital economy agreement in the world, which is expected to be adopted next year, the development of a resilient, sustainable and smart ASEAN Power Grid, and better utilization of renewable, green and low-carbon energy.
- **The Deputy Prime Minister** took the opportunity to express appreciation to all Dialogue Partners for their unwavering support to ASEAN's efforts in further enhancing regional connectivity. In this regard, he invited Dialogue Partners to continue contributing to this endeavour, including through their support for the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and its successor document. The Deputy Prime Minister stressed that a resilient and interconnected region will ensure that ASEAN remains a key driver in regional and global growth.
- **The Deputy Prime Minister** also underscored that ASEAN needs to build an ecosystem to help realize these visions by investing in human capital development in order to ensure that our peoples are equipped with the 21st century skills that allow them to thrive in the future, making our Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises competitive, productive and resilient, and facilitating the adoption of technology and digital tools. In addition, he also thanked Dialogue Partners for their continued support for the implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan IV (2021-2025), which contribute to our efforts to narrow the development gap in the region.
- **The Deputy Prime Minister** also expressed appreciation to Dialogue Partners for their support for ASEAN Centrality, and the ASEAN Outlook on Indo Pacific (AOIP), which serves as a guiding document in our engagement with partners in the Asia-Pacific and the Indian Ocean regions. Moreover, he encouraged Dialogue Partners to contribute to the AOIP through tangible and concrete projects in the four priority areas identified in the AOIP through ASEAN-led mechanisms for our mutual benefit.



The Meetings adopted the following outcome documents:

1. ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Joint Statement on Strengthening Humanitarian Mine Action Cooperation
2. Joint Statement of ASEAN and Russian Foreign Ministers Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of Russia's Accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC)
3. ASEAN-UK Joint Ministerial Statement: "Enhancing Connectivity for a Prosperous, Sustainable and Secure Future"
4. Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (2025-2029)

As Cambodia concludes her role as Country Coordinator for ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Relations, **His Excellency SOK Chenda Sophea** thanked his colleagues for extending their full support over the past three years, and reaffirmed Cambodia's commitment to work closely with Myanmar to ensure a smooth and effective transition as the next Country Coordinator.

Vientiane, 26 July 2024

